



Town of Amherst, NH
HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES
Barbara Landry Meeting Room
2 Main Street
Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 7:30 PM

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I. Call to Order: Chairman Will Lutz called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Attendees: Chairman Will Lutz, Andy Ouellette, Mary Mahar, Lisa Montesanto, Larry McCoy, and Tom Grella. Also present: Gordon Leedy, Director of Community Development, and Suzanne Beauchesne taking minutes.

II. Topics of Discussion

a. “Throw Back Thursday – Amherst Heritage”

Prior to introducing Amherst’s new Community Development Director, Chairman Lutz explained that meetings are started off with stories related to Amherst’s heritage and asked if anyone had any election tidbits they would want to share. Andy Ouellette who was born and raised in Amherst said during the 1976 election there was an independent by the name of Barry Commoner on the ballot. He was very intrigued by his ideas and voted for him in the primary. Then the Amherst Citizen came out with the election results and Mr. Commoner received two votes.

Chairman Lutz moved the discussion to agenda item **f. Potential CLG Grant Opportunities.** He said the Historic District Commission is also interested this time around and introduced Gordon Leedy who has been talking with the DHR folks. Chairman Lutz said there was a proposal that would affect the Heritage Commission as well as the Historic District Commission. Gordon Leedy said he had been a resident of Amherst for almost 19 years and had been a member of the Planning Board for most of those 19 years. He said he wanted to give his commitment to pay attention to all of the Boards and provide support where they can. Director Leedy said he had spoken to Laura Black of the DHR who he knew from having served on the Board of Plan NH. He asked Ms. Black for help to achieve the goals of the commissions and she directed him to Nadine Miller. Chairman Lutz indicated that Nadine Miller had addressed the Commission just a few months ago. Director Leedy said there had been a problem with the windows at the Brick School and indicated to Ms. Miller that they were looking for funding opportunities. Ms. Miller mentioned the CLG and the Commission Assistance and Mentorship Program (CAMP). They will bring three or four members of their group, the National Alliance for Preservation Commission, to assist with regulatory review and the role of the commissions. Ms. Miller said if the commission applied for the program “they would be very competitive”. Chairman Lutz indicated that in the past the Heritage Commission has received two CLG grants. The process is that a Letter of Intent goes out, they evaluate it and provide feedback. If approved, then the proposal is sent. Director Leedy figures they would need to come up with about \$11,000 (\$7,000 payment to CAMP, and about \$4,200 to \$4,600 matching funds). He said the match money could be “in kind” and the cash outlay may not be more than a couple thousand dollars which he would have in his budget and has spoken to Town Administrator Jim O’Mara about that. Director Leedy feels this would help position “our commissions to be in a good place going forward” and he will be in a position to be a resource. Chairman Lutz said part of this component is public education and how best to reach the citizenry. He said two years ago he attended a CAMP session in Keene. It was two days training, briefing and it was pretty good. The program is geared more to the Historic District Commission who deal with regulation rather than the Heritage Commission that is advisory. He said perhaps they might reconsider the demotion delay that failed five years ago.

52 **b. Update on Bertha Rogers Grant**

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54 Chairman Lutz said he discussed with the Town Clerk that work on the vault would be best done
55 after the election since the Town Clerk's office has a lot going on and must store Tuesday election
56 ballots for 22 months. Vault work will start next week or the week after and Chairman Lutz will
57 circle back to everyone via email.
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59 Before showing the video, Chairman Lutz provided an update on the Heritage Commission
60 membership. **d. Potential New Heritage Commission Member**

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62 Chairman Lutz said he met with new member, John Bement, who is active with the Historical
63 Society and works with the Conservation Commission. He has submitted a letter of interest to the
64 Board of Selectmen. Chairman Lutz provided a letter of support. By the December meeting, Mr.
65 Bement should be on board. Conor Frain is on as an Alternate. Chairman Lutz said both will be
66 very good additions to the Commission.
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68 **c. 15 Minute Video – “Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area: A Mosaic of Natural**
69 **Beauty” – taken up at the end of the meeting**

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71 Chairman Lutz presented a 15 minutes video entitled “Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area: A
72 Mosaic of Natural Beauty”.
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74 **d. Potential New Heritage Commission Member**

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76 **e. Heritage Commission Partnership Event – January 29, 2017 at P MEC**

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78 Chairman Lutz said he signed up again this year to host a snowshoe event at the P MEC as a way of
79 getting visibility and get it publicized. He said refreshments will be served and they will have two
80 sessions as was done last year. It was suggested the morning session be for beginners and the
81 afternoon be more for the intermediate snowshoer.
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83 **f. Potential CLG Grant Opportunities – taken up earlier in the meeting**

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85 **g. Updates from Other Boards and Commissions Attendance**

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87 Mary Mahar said the Zoning Board was looking at a place on Milford Road which is a small lot by
88 the lake. Gordon Leedy said it is unbuildable without a variance. Director Leedy said there were
89 two other properties before the Zoning Board. One is the flea market site where they want to do an
90 elderly housing project which goes back to the former Community Development Director. The
91 second is the LaBelle Winery expansion. Abutters have requested a rehearing which has been
92 granted. Chairman Lutz said the Commission's interested in both properties are the old building.
93 Director Leedy said LaBelle has stated they will preserve the barn and the house. Director Leedy
94 said there is significant expansion proposed in the back. There is a 100 foot setback from Route
95 101 so they will not be able to add to the front of the building. Mr. Leedy said they are not required
96 to preserve since there are no federal or state funds and permits involved. They have made a
97 commitment to be as appropriate as they can be. Chairman Lutz agreed to send a letter about
98 preserving the two buildings.
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100 Chairman Lutz said he attended the Conservation Commission meeting. Discussion focused on the
101 budget and he was asked to sit on a subcommittee on trails.
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103 Chairman Lutz said that as a way of communicating with the SAU and HDC he would invite them to
104 the next meeting of the Heritage Commission on December 8th to be held at the Brick School. He said
105 the SAU is trying to raise money to redo the foyer area. The space has been opened up and could be
106 used as a museum and restored to 1854. Chairman Lutz again mentioned that funds remain from the
107 Bean grant that could be used for this project.

108
109 Andy Ouellette provided an update on his communications with Sara Siskavich regarding the Nashua
110 Regional Planning Commission's technology that would aid in locating stone walls. He said Sara was
111 having some luck with ESIR tools. Mr. Ouellette said he was impressed with the LIDAR technology
112 that was developed in collaboration with many entities.

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114 **III. Minutes: Current on All Minutes**

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116 **IV. Adjourn**

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118 The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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